GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1717
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2015
Corruption in Railway Procurement
Chaudhury Shri Jitendra

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Sreedharan Committee report, almost Rs. 10,000 crore are being looted every year in railway procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to correct/reform the Railway Board and the management in view of the findings of the Committee report that Railways are suffering from centralisation, lack of transparency and accountability?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) : No, Madam. There is no such mention in the report.
(c) In a large organisation like Indian Railways, delegation and procedural changes are continuous process taking into account the operational flexibility, quick decision making, transparency as well as requisite checks and balances; but the same needs to be done with due caution to strike a proper balance between operational efficiency and accountability.
The latest exercise was undertaken by Ministry of Railways in August 2014 for delegation of more powers to Zonal Railways on the matters of sanctioning of estimates and works tenders.
To meet the challenges of high growth trajectory of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways constituted on 13.11.2014, the Committee of Dr. E. Sreedharan with mandate for suggesting further delegation of power to General Managers and other operating levels on tendering and commercial matters.
The Final Report submitted on 11.03.2015. A Sub-committee of three Executive Directors of Railway Board has evaluated the recommendations of the committee report and it is under final decision by the Ministry on implementation of the report.
****